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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies is an independent, autonomous and pan-African non-governmental organization based in Banjul. The African Centre seeks to promote the awareness of and adherence to human rights and democratic principles throughout the African continent. This is done through training, advocacy, networking, action-oriented research, publications and documentation. The African Centre also has observer status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. All its activities and programmes are geared towards the improvement of the human rights situation on the African continent. This report covers the period between 2005 and 2008.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The African Centre participated in major United Nations conferences during the year under review, including: (a) the fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, February and March 2006, February and March 2007 and February and March 2008; (b) the forum on the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, May 2006 and November 2006 in Banjul; an update on the work of the Human Rights Council was featured in the programme of the NGO forum; after deliberations, resolutions and recommendations, the update was submitted to the African Commission for its consideration; (c) the forum on the participation of NGOs in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, May 2007 in Accra, and November 2007 in Brazzaville, Congo; an update on the work of the Human Rights Council and the Durban Review Conference on Racism was featured in the programme of the NGO forum; after deliberations, resolutions and recommendations, it was submitted to the African Commission for its consideration; (d) regional consultations on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, December 2007 in Lomé; (e) the African Preparatory Meeting of the Durban Review Conference, August 2008 in Abuja; (f) the International Steering Committee Meeting and the United Nations Democracy Caucus ministerial meeting during the General Assembly and as a spokesperson at the Meeting of the Council for a Community of Democracies, September 2008 in New York; (g) the Strategic Meeting on NGO participation in the United Nations Human Rights Council; the 2006 and 2007 evaluation and planning for 2008 took place in November 2008 in Sao Paulo, Brazil; (h) under the United Nations Democracy Fund project, which was funded by UNDP, the African Centre organized the following events in Banjul: sensitization workshop for local Government authorities, for local councillors, in September 2008; consultation for Civil Society Organizations and Mass Media in October 2008; consultation on the review of existing media laws in October 2008; sensitization workshop for security forces in November 2008; sensitization workshop for National Assembly Members in November 2008; (i) the African

Centre also organized a panel discussion on "Dignity and Justice for All" on the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2008 in Banjul.

The African Centre appreciates the opportunity to work with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and support the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The African Centre looks forward to a continued collaboration in the future.

2. Agrenska Foundation, AF (Grosshandlare Axel H. Agres Donationsfond)

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

Aims, purposes and main courses of action of the organization

Agrenska provides programmes for children, youth and adults with functional disabilities and special competence in rare disorders. Our programmes also include their families and professionals concerned (the family programme). Agrenska wants to contribute to families coping with everyday life and make them as independent and equal as possible. It is also important for Agrenska to both develop and make proper tools available to patients suffering from any rare disease in order to improve their everyday life. In all its programmes, activities and projects, Agrenska has taken the United Nations standard rules into consideration. In addition to families, the majority of Agrenska's activities focus also on staff, managers and decision makers concerned with the above-mentioned areas. Agrenska gives support, exerts influence and supervises in many different ways.

Expanded areas of activities of Agrenska in Sweden

During the period 2005-2008, Agrenska expanded and introduced new activities, including: (a) 2005: started the Adult Programme for those with rare diseases so that they could meet others in the same situation and learn about their specific rare diseases; during those programmes, Agrenska took the opportunity to gather new information and increased competence; the Adult Programme is now a permanent activity at Agrenska; (b) started the personal assistance for persons with severe functional impairments who are entitled by Swedish law to personal assistance in various degrees depending on how their disabilities affect everyday life; Agrenska here provided services, including support with recruiting and employing personnel, all administration, educating the staff, participation in courses and further education free of charge, personal support through our competence and long experience within functional disabilities and access to Agrenska and its beautiful surroundings; (c) a two-year project in 2006-2008 to provide a communicative environment for persons with disabilities was successful; improved communication methods meant improved conditions for participation in society as well as all other communication. The project involved different environments. Agrenska collaborated with the School of Design and Craft at Gothenburg University and DART, the Centre for Augmentative and Alternative Communication and assistive technology.

Expanded areas of activities of Agrenska abroad

Eesti Agrenska was inaugurated in October 2007 by Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden and the First Lady of Estonia, Evelin Ilves. The centre is intended to be a high-quality rehabilitation centre similar to Agrenska in Sweden. It is situated in Estonia. Partners collaborating in the development of the centre are Tartu University, University Hospital in Tartu, Children's Hospital in Tartu and the umbrella organizations for all organizations in Estonia that cater to persons with disabilities.

Increased activities of the president of the organization

Anders Olauson, President of the European Patients' Forum since his election in June 2005, represents Rare Diseases Europe (EURORDIS) as a member of the board on which he also served as President from 1999 to 2001.

In 2008, Mr. Olauson was appointed to the Directorate of the Board, the governing body of The National Board of Health and Welfare, under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden. It has a very wide range of activities and many different duties within the fields of social services, health and medical services, environmental health, communicable disease prevention and control and epidemiology. The Government determines the policy guidelines for the work.

Mr. Olauson is also a member of the International Conference on Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs (ICORD), an organization with the mission to improve the welfare of patients with rare diseases and their families worldwide through better knowledge, research, care, information, education and awareness. ICORD follows the same values as the United Nations. The focus is to build networks to improve the situation for persons with rare diseases and to increase equal conditions to live a good life. Mr. Olauson has attended the annual conferences of ICORD since 2005 and was also a speaker in 2007 in Brussels. The next conference will be held in Buenos Aires in 2010. For the first time it will be convened in the Southern hemisphere in agreement with its aim of globalization of rare diseases research and orphan products development activities.

Since 2006, Mr. Olauson is also a member of the reference group concerning research on health issues.

Agrenska is present and contributes to many significant forums involved, the latest being in Geneva in July 2009, where Mr. Olauson also met Navid Hanif, former Chief of the Policy Coordination Branch, Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination, who expressed his appreciation of the work Agrenska is doing.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Agrenska contributed to support for the United Nations goals related to human rights and the Millennium Development Goals. Agrenska also participated in various meetings and projects in this regard.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Agrenska Foundation plans to enhance its direct cooperation with United Nations bodies specialized in the field of global health.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Agrenska Foundation is preparing to launch a more global network in the field of the priorities of the foundation. This included: (a) in 2005, Agrenska participated in the launch of ICORD and authorized the start of a network of centres that worked in the field of family programmes; (b) the Ministry built the centre after a visit to the Agrenska Centre in Gothenburg during 2008 and started a cooperation between the two centres; (c) in October 2007, Queen Silvia of Sweden, together with the First Lady of Estonia, Mrs. Ilves, inaugurated the Eesti Agrenska centre for families who have children with disabilities; Eesti Agrenska is situated in Tammistu, outside Tartu, in Estonia; the centre works in close cooperation with the Agrenska Foundation in Sweden; (d) the University Hospital in Newcastle in Australia started a family programme in line with the Agrenska model; (e) in order to start a better cooperation between the Nordic countries in the field of rare disorders, a project was started in which Mr. Olauson participated as a resource person.

Agrenska has deepened its international engagement during the first four years as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status and wishes to continue this important mission to fulfil its objectives.

3. International Public Telecommunications Academy

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

The non-governmental organization International Public Telecommunications Academy is a voluntary non-commercial association of scientists, top managers and first-class experts working in the telecommunications and information technology sector. The work of the Academy is to develop creative relations and cooperation and to advance the integration of scientific and innovative potential of specialists working in the infocommunications field. The major missions of the Academy consist of creating intellectual public infrastructure in the telecommunications sphere, encouraging innovative development of infocommunications and constructing a global information society. The Academy further disseminates current knowledge and innovative technologies in the infocommunications field on the basis of domestic and international experience and promotes professional and international cooperation. It also conducts analytical research on issues of infocommunications development as part of governmental, business-like and public infrastructure.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2002/2005, pursuant to the decision of the United Nations General Assembly, the Academy took part in meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in preparing International Public Telecommunications Academy-global information society recommendations for the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Within the framework of WSIS and ITU programmes, the Academy prepared and published a book entitled *The Digital Gap in Global Information Society*.

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In relation to the Economic and Social Council and the Department of Public Information, a great number of forums, conferences and seminars have been held on social and economic aspects of infocommunications development including: (a) Annual International Scientific and Practical Conference on the theme "Information technologies of the global information society" (Kazan, Russian Federation, September 2005-2008); (b) International Conference on the theme "Modern infocommunications market: saturation, competition, development" (Sicily, Italy, September/October 2006); (c) Round table on the theme "Priority guidelines for law improvement in infocommunications and communication fields" (Moscow, March 2007); (d) ninth 2008 Academy International Forum on the theme "Society and infocommunications: development, technologies and social economy" (Moscow, April 2008); (e) in 2006, the Academy was awarded the United Nations Certificate of Recognition for its prominent contribution to the work in the United

Nations Regional Information Network and in the International Organizations Community of civil society.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In relation to the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow, over the period from 2005 to 2008, the Academy participated in holding meetings with Russian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) having United Nations status and in a number of international meetings held by the United Nations Information Centre. The Academy also participated in the Annual Conference of Non-governmental Organizations associated with the Department of Public Information. The Academy is a participant in the United Nations Global Treaty in the Russian Federation. As one of the first participants of the Global Treaty, the Academy has conducted active advocacy among Russian companies for joining the Global Treaty. The Academy has actively cooperated with ITU, a United Nations specialized agency, in the field of information and communications technologies. In particular, the Academy is an active advocate for the global programme "Unite the World" aimed at joining up efforts of all interested parties so as by 2015 to unite all those who are not united today.

4. Marie Stopes International

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

Marie Stopes International (MSI) is a global, non-profit and non-governmental organization committed to upholding the fundamental right of women and couples to decide freely, and without coercion, the number and spacing of their children, in accordance with the 1994 Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. Founded in 1976, MSI provides high-quality family planning, maternal and child health, comprehensive abortion, and HIV/AIDS services to millions of couples and individuals who live in poverty, including those living in rural areas or urban slums, and to refugee and internally displaced populations. Over the reporting period, MSI expanded its service delivery programme to two more countries, reaching a total of 36 countries in 2008. Its total number of clinics in existing and new countries saw a significant increase from 379 in the beginning of 2005 to 560 in 2008. As a result, nearly 1.7 million more people (totalling 6 million) benefited from MSI's services in 2008 compared to the beginning of 2005. The total income of MSI over the reporting period nearly doubled from £46.6 million to £81.8 million in 2008. This rapid increase was due largely to a significant increase in donor contributions.

Building upon its long-standing experience in promoting and providing reproductive health services in emergency settings, MSI, together with Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health launched the Reproductive Health Access, Information and Services in Emergencies (RAISE) Initiative in June 2006. RAISE works in partnership with key advocacy and service delivery organizations, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to increase and improve access to reproductive health care in emergency situations (www.raiseinitiative.org).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Marie Stopes International participated in major United Nations conferences and other meetings, including, in 2005, the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the ten-year review of the Beijing Platform of Action, 28 February to 11 March. MSI attended the conference to advocate for the protection and promotion of reproductive health and rights of couples and individuals.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

MSI collaboration with the United Nations specialized agencies consists of: (a) advocacy and exchange of technical expertise, in particular focusing on promoted access to reproductive health in crisis settings. MSI has worked closely

with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including through the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crisis Settings (IAWG) and the RAISE initiative. Efforts included advocating for the integration of reproductive health in key guidance and policy documents produced by the United Nations system, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) HIV/AIDS guidelines and the global health cluster guidelines. MSI, a founding and steering committee member of IAWG, provided technical input to both the original *Inter-Agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations* and its 2008 review (ongoing). It also participated in the annual IAWG meetings held in Melbourne, Australia (2006), Nairobi (2007) and Cairo (2008); (b) MSI worked with UNFPA and WHO, including through the Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, to improve access to and quality of reproductive health supplies; (c) partnership with UNFPA for the implementation of training, service delivery, technical support and advocacy activities in a wide range of countries, mostly in Asia and Latin America. This included the continued support for the MSI office in Brussels, to serve as the secretariat of the Working Group on Reproductive Health, HIV/AIDS and Development (EPWG). EPWG is an informal all-party parliamentary group in the European Parliament which, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, advocated for the support of gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the response to HIV/AIDS as the basis for sustainable social and human development and poverty eradication; (d) launch of UNFPA report: as in previous years, the secretariat of EPWG hosted the annual launch of the State of the World Population report in the European Parliament. The launch constituted an important awareness-raising opportunity to ensure that the European Union implemented its commitments to the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals, in particular those related to sexual and reproductive health and rights, HIV/AIDS and gender equality.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Guided by the internationally agreed development goals set out in the Programme of Action of the International Programme on Population Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals, MSI, through its delivery of sexual and reproductive health services and advocacy efforts, works strenuously to increase access to quality sexual reproductive health services for all.

During the reporting period, MSI reached 20.6 million clients with family planning and other essential reproductive health services, including maternal and child health care, comprehensive abortion care, adolescent sexual and reproductive health services and prevention of HIV/AIDS. This, for example, included the provision of more than 2 million long-term family planning methods to women wanting to plan their family size and the distribution of 532 million condoms. Through doing so, MSI effectively contributed to most Millennium Development Goals, including:

Goal 1: eradicate poverty: ensuring access to family planning allows women and girls to delay and plan pregnancies and instead acquire skills to improve economic prospects for themselves and their families.

Goal 2: universal education: ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health information and services information for young people reduces the risk of unwanted, early or unintended pregnancies and hence the risk of girls dropping out of school prematurely.

Goal 4 on child health and Goal 5 on maternal health: in addition to ensuring access to maternal and child health services, access to family planning services can reduce the risk of maternal death up to 40 per cent. The health of the mother is an important protective factor in child survival. As such, family planning also helps to reduce the risk of child mortality up to 20 per cent.

Goal 6: HIV/AIDS — MSI contributes to this goal through the distribution of condoms, voluntary counselling and testing and prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Through its advocacy work with European institutions, MSI continues to actively contribute to the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular those related to reproductive health. Focusing on the European Parliament and the European Commission, in particular, MSI continues to actively advocate for the inclusion of reproductive health in relevant European documents, including council conclusions, commission communications and parliamentary resolutions.

Advocacy efforts also targeted member States to improve action and policy in the area of reproductive health, including MDG5 on maternal health and reproductive health in crisis settings. For example, in 2007, MSI submitted written evidence to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Parliamentary International Development Select Committee hearing on United Kingdom Department for International Development assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees of Myanmar, as well as an inquiry on maternal health. MSI worked with the UK All-Parliamentary Group on Population and Development to conduct an inquiry on maternal morbidity. The reports coming out of these meetings have done much to increase the profile of MDG5 in the United Kingdom. Another area of focus was the inclusion of the current MDG target 5b on universal access to reproductive health, following the 2005 Millennium Review of the MDGs. In close collaboration with other United Kingdom and European non-governmental organizations and networks and government representatives, MSI worked towards the official adoption of MDG target 5b, and has since advocated for its implementation.

5. Virtue Foundation

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The Virtue Foundation is a public charitable and non-governmental organization with special consultative status to the United Nations. The Foundation's mission is to increase awareness of prevalent global issues, to inspire people to action, and to render humanitarian assistance through health-care, education, and empowerment initiatives. Comprised primarily of volunteers, Virtue Foundation is guided by the principle that true global change must begin within each of us — one person at a time, one act at a time.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

9 May 2008, the Virtue Foundation, Women Together, and the NGO Section of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (NGO-DESA) co-sponsored the Third World Summit on the Millennium Development Goals at the United Nations. Panellists and speakers included the Executive Director of the Virtue Foundation, Chief of NGO-DESA and a representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for the South American region, among others. Three hundred participants attended.

2007: in September, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a global forum on youth and information and communications technology in Geneva. The Foundation organized and presented a workshop on the subject of integrating technology into classrooms, underscoring the need to equip children worldwide with the tools necessary to advance in a digital world. The Foundation's Executive Director highlighted its Louisiana Education Initiative and Dwight Student Leadership Project at the United Nations as innovative, educational models; in March, at the Global Summit for a Better Tomorrow: In Celebration of International Women's Day, the Foundation organized and collaborated with NGO-DESA, UNIFEM, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Avon to sponsor a conference focusing on gender equality and highlighting issues related to women's education, health care and economic empowerment. The Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and the Executive Director of UNICEF were among the keynote speakers at the conference, which took place at the United Nations. It received extensive mainstream media coverage and was broadcast on United Nations television and other international media outlets generating approximately 8 million impressions worldwide.

2006: the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a symposium on the theme "Rethinking peace through education and hope: the fifth annual bicoastal symposium commemorating the anniversary of 9/11", which took place in September 2006 at the United Nations. The symposium focused on the theme of

rebuilding the lives of those impacted by devastating tragedies and ongoing conflicts around the world. There were 300 attendees. In May, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a special in-depth interview with Mukhtar Mai, the remarkable rape survivor who has emerged as an international spokesperson on women's rights in Pakistan. CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien conducted the interview at the United Nations that was attended by approximately 200 people.

2005: 9 September, the Foundation collaborated with NGO-DESA to organize and host a symposium on the theme "Keeping the peace in a troubled world: lasting solutions to ethnic and religious conflict". The symposium focused on the issue of national and international conflict, with a special emphasis on the complex relationship between conflict, poverty, and disease. There were more than 300 attendees. An associated event with 250 attendees took place at the University of California, Irvine, on 10 September; in June, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored and organized the premiere screening of the documentary film "Stolen Faces" at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and addressed issues related to acid violence. "Stolen Faces", which was produced by the Foundation and narrated by Liev Schreiber, chronicles the journey a young Cambodian mother and her one-month old daughter, who were victims of an acid attack in Cambodia and the extensive treatment and rehabilitation they received during a medical expedition sponsored by the Foundation. Critical surgical care and rehabilitation were also provided in the United States of America with the sponsorship of Mount Sinai Hospital and the Foundation. Lisa Ling, the host of an award-winning National Geographic Channel series, moderated a panel discussion. Speakers included, among others, the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. The event was broadcast on United Nations television. The goal of the documentary is to bring awareness to the problem of acid violence and to encourage Governments and the global community to deter its occurrence. There were 180 participants. In May, the Foundation and NGO-DESA cosponsored a conference entitled "The People's Republic of China: the emergence of a new world order" at the Asia Society in New York. The conference was attended by 200 participants and included a panel of experts that explored the social and cultural impact of this emerging superpower on establishing the possible beginnings of a new world order.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

2006: in March, the Foundation collaborated with Human Rights Focus (HURIFO), Human Rights Watch, the Quaker United Nations Office, and Witness to present a screening of the documentary of "Between Two Fires: Torture and Displacement in Northern Uganda". The screening was attended by 70 participants and was followed by a panel discussion at the United Nations highlighting torture and displacement in Northern Uganda. In March, the Foundation organized a panel of experts to discuss "Vulnerable youth: safeguarding our children in a globalized world". The discussion was moderated by NBC Dateline's Keith Morrison at the Harvard Club and explored ways to end the exploitation and abuse of vulnerable children worldwide. Two hundred participants attended.

2005-2008: financial contributions: United Nations in 2005, 2008; United Nations Association in 2008.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 5: improve maternal health, and Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability

Integral community health-care systems established.

2008: Burundi: the Foundation deployed a team to provide medical training to professionals and general medical care, including maternal health care, in collaboration with Village Healthworks in Burundi. The Foundation provided financial assistance for the clinic and provided medical supplies.

2007-2008: Chiapas, Mexico: the Foundation sponsored two needs assessment and outreach expeditions with the goal of evaluating the general and maternal health-care needs of the indigenous population and the medical and surgical training needs of medical professionals serving that region. The Foundation compiled an extensive initial summary report of its findings that is being evaluated for a potential future health-care initiative.

2005-2008: Cambodia health-care initiative: the Foundation sponsored three medical expeditions that included treatment and follow-up visits for victims of acid violence as well as training for local health-care professionals. A young mother and infant who were doused with acid were also provided extensive surgical treatment and rehabilitation in the United States of America. A documentary was screened at the high-level segment of the Council in 2006 to bring awareness to the issue of acid violence worldwide. The Foundation hopes to deploy additional teams of physicians to Cambodia and to continue the vital tasks of raising awareness of acid violence and training local physicians in surgical and reconstructive procedures.

April 2006: Belize medical expedition: the Foundation sponsored a medical expedition that consisted of 33 medical students and 17 physicians from Medical Students Making Impacts, Inc. at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The team treated over 2,200 patients and conducted a variety of public health projects.

2006: Pakistan medical expedition: the Foundation sponsored a medical expedition to Meerwala, Pakistan, to provide medical care to women and children. Financial assistance was provided to support the establishment of a sustainable health-care infrastructure. Medical supplies were also provided.

March 2005: discussion on medical expedition to India. In December 2004, the Foundation sponsored a team of physicians to provide medical care to the hundreds of people affected by the tsunami in India. The lead physician provided insight on the medical needs of the population.

Goal 2: achieve universal primary education

2008: Burundi: provided computers and books to children through Healthworks in Burundi.

2005-2008: disaster relief through education pilot project: the Foundation's Louisiana Education Initiative was launched in response to disaster assessment provided by the International Rescue Commission. In collaboration with corporate partners, the Foundation provided over $1 million in laptops and software to children affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This innovative technology-

enabled educational pilot has become a model for primary education in Louisiana and can serve as a replicable model for educating children worldwide.

D. Activities in support of global principles

April 2007: Columbia University Children's Rights Conference on Child Protection: the Foundation cosponsored this conference with Columbia University's Children's Rights Working Group. The panel discussions composed of children's rights experts focused on issues of child labour and trafficking, child abuse and violence against children, and children in emergencies.

27 January 2005: The Quest to Achieve Sustainable Humanitarian Efforts: the Foundation sponsored a panel discussion at Rockefeller University on long-term and pragmatic solutions to the enduring problems of poverty and inadequate health care. Experts included the President of Refugees International, and the Senior Vice-President of the International Rescue Commission, among others.

2007: the Virtue Foundation Dwight Student Leadership Project: the Foundation partnered with The Dwight School in Manhattan to provide high school students with the opportunity to engage in a year-long internship programme to learn about the Millennium Development Goals and to assist with various humanitarian initiatives at the United Nations.

2006: child soldiers initiative: the Foundation forges partnerships with local NGOs in Africa to promote the demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and provide medical assistance to child soldiers infected with HIV. It also organizes lectures at schools to educate students about this issue by screening a documentary produced by the Foundation and narrated by Anne Hathaway that sheds light on the plight of child soldiers and what can be done to help them.

2005-2008: Contributions: the International Rescue Commission, the Refugees International, Witness, and the Human Rights Working Group.